

This matter was opened to the New Jersey Board of Dentistry (hereinafter "Board") upon receipt of a patient complaint from M.T. on behalf of her son S.S who was nine at the time of treatment in 1998. The complaint alleged that Sandra A. Ferrara, D.M.D. (hereinafter "respondent") failed to conform to standard dental practice in the State of New Jersey. Specifically, M.T. alleged that respondent did not render proper care because her son's filling fell out after four weeks and he had an abscessed tooth which was not treated properly. On March 15, 2000 respondent

appeared without counsel at an investigative inquiry into the matter held by the Board.

Having reviewed the entire record, and having heard the testimony of respondent at the investigative inquiry, it appears to the Board that respondent failed to renew her license to practice dentistry for the 1999-2001 renewal period in a timely fashion and continued to practice without current registration. Respondent testified at the inquiry that she did not renew her license because she did not receive the renewal application at the correct address. However, testimony also revealed that respondent never notified the Board of her change of address. This conduct constitutes violations of N.J.A.C. 13:30-8.12(a) (notification of change of address) and N.J.S.A. 45:6-10 and 45:6-13 (requiring current license) and provides the basis for discipline pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e) and (h).

Additionally, after a preliminary review of the record in this matter, the Board has also concluded that the treatment rendered by respondent was below the standard of care for dental practice in New Jersey. Specifically, with respect to tooth #T, respondent followed an improper course of treatment given the child's age and presentation of symptoms.

However, the Board is satisfied that it can conclude this matter at this time in a manner which adequately addresses the complaint presented to the Board as respondent waives her right to a hearing and agrees to the following in order to resolve this

matter without recourse to further investigation and formal proceedings:

IT IS, THEREFORE, ON THIS 6 DAY OF *September* 2000,

HEREBY ORDERED AND AGREED THAT:

1. Respondent shall pay a civil penalty in the amount of \$500.00 for practicing without a current registration, and \$200.00 for failing to notify the Board of her change of address. Payment in the total amount of \$700.00 shall be made by certified check or money order, payable to the State of New Jersey and forwarded to Kevin Earle, Executive Director, Board of Dentistry, P.O. Box 45005, Sixth Floor, 124 Halsey Street, Newark, New Jersey 07101 contemporaneously with respondent's signing of this Consent Order.

2. Respondent shall complete 21 hours of continuing education in basic pediatric dentistry and seven (7) hours in radiology by December 31, 2000. This course work is in addition to the required forty hours of continuing education for the 1999-2001 renewal period. All courses taken towards completion of the 28 hours imposed by this Order shall be pre-approved by the Board and the Board shall also be provided with proof of completion of the courses (see forms attached).

3. Respondent shall pay costs of the investigation in this matter in the amount of \$66.80. Payment for costs shall be made by certified check or money order payable to the State of New Jersey

and submitted to Kevin Earle, Executive Director of the Board, at the address above, contemporaneously with respondent's signing of this Consent Order.

New Jersey Board of Dentistry

Barbara Ann Rich, DDS
Barbara Rich, D.D.S.
President

I have read and understand the terms of this Consent Order and agree to be bound by the terms. I consent to the entry of this Order.

Sandra Ferrara, DMD.
Sandra A. Ferrara, D.M.D.